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Hope Sports Complex Seeks Lease Extension to Build on “Extraordinary Success”

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero and Julie Mullin, owner of Mid-Michigan Sports Turf (MMST) and general manager of the Hope Sports Complex in south Lansing, announced today that MMST is seeking a long-term lease extension from the City of Lansing. The proposed 20-year agreement is needed to secure private investment to finance new developments at Hope that could include additional sports fields, an indoor sports dome and related facilities.

In 2013, the city entered into a 5-year lease with MMST to transform the underutilized, city-owned soccer facility into one of the premier multi-sports complexes in Michigan. The lease obligated Mullin’s company to construct a single artificial turf field on the property. MMST has surpassed that initial investment almost three-fold by adding sports lighting to two and a half sports fields, a new press box with a state-of-the-art audio system, a 10x20 HD Jumbotron, stadium seating for 1,200 spectators, and Cleats Bar and Grille, a full-service restaurant with an enclosed outdoor patio for 500+ patrons.

Recently the facility also became the home field for the new Michigan Chill SC Women’s Premier Soccer League (WPSL) team. Michigan Chill SC is already drawing national and international caliber women players, as well as top collegiate talent. The WPSL is the second highest league for female players in the United States.

“The transformation of the Hope Sports Complex has exceeded our expectations in every way,” said Mayor Virg Bernero. “Julie Mullin and her team have delivered everything they promised and more, and their extraordinary success is making a major contribution to the city’s economic progress, especially in south Lansing. Their accomplishments thus far, and their bold vision for the future, clearly warrant a long-term lease extension that will allow the Hope Sports Complex to attract new private investment for the next phase of development. Julie has even bigger dreams for Hope and we should do everything we can to ensure its future success.”

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“When we started this adventure almost three years ago, we never dreamed of the level of community support we've had or the impact we've been able to bring to Metro Lansing, especially South Lansing,” said Mullin. “With over 200,000 visitors to the park this year and over 50 groups utilizing the complex, we are proud to positively impact sports tourism in the Metro Lansing region, as projected.”

Mullin reiterated that the lease extension is necessary to demonstrate to potential investors that MMST and the City of Lansing are committed to a long-term partnership that will take Hope Sports Complex to the next level of success.

“The long-term lease is essential because it allows us to attract larger investors to help us realize our future dreams for Hope and our community,” Mullin said. “We've come so far in three years and yet feel like we are just beginning.”

The proposed lease amendment was recently placed on file for 30 days with the Lansing City Clerk. Approval of the amendment will be considered later this year by Lansing City Council.

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